

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- 4–7 July 2010 -
ALEA Conference,
Perth

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Numeracy Strategy 4

Photos 8

The Writing is on the Wall.. 11

Books in Homes 11

Our New AL Consultant 15

Diary Dates 16

AICS Conference — March 2010

Once again delegates from the 14 Aboriginal Independent Community Schools gathered for their annual conference towards the end of Term 1 this year.



new Principals to meet people from other schools and acquire a broad overview of the Schools as a whole.

The conference presents a great opportunity for schools to share common concerns, interests, innovative ideas and support for the work they do in providing education to Indigenous students around Western Australia, the majority of whom are located in extremely remote, thinly resourced locations.

The conference also provides a good opportunity for familiar faces to catch up and get together in person as well as for

Some of the topics covered in this year's conference related to the Numeracy Project, National Partnerships, Accelerated Literacy, Early Learning Framework, Better Beginnings Plus Project and Assessment Literacy. It also covered a discussion on good transition practices for students going to boarding school and presentations on 'Breaking down the word barriers in a remote Kimberley School' and the 2009 'National Indigenous Education Conference' in Hobart.

Thank you from Katie & Danny

After almost 5 years in the AICS network and with a baby on the way, we've decided it's time to head back to Melbourne.

We have had a great experience since first coming up to the Kimberley in 2005, working at Purnululu and then later at Nyikina Mangala School, and thank everyone at Frog Hollow and Jarlmadangah!

In the last couple of years, we have both had the privilege of working for the AICS Support Unit, and have truly enjoyed the chance to work with staff and students from a range of schools.

The Support Unit team has been a fantastic one to work with, so it will be with a lot of regret that we leave. We will certainly miss AICS and life in the Kimberley, how-

ever as the region has done before, we may well be lured back in the future...



Karalundi Starts Facilities Upgrade



Boys dorm under construction

'The improvements will bring the facilities in line with an expected increase in enrolments.'

By Romela Sangalan

Karalundi is well underway with renovations and extensions of its hostel facilities with building works completed for the boys and girls accommodation. Extensions and equipping of the kitchen and dining room are ongoing. This project is supported by Commonwealth funding under the Australian Government's Indigenous Boarding Infrastructure Program with a grant of \$1.641 million. The project is expected to be completed by the end of June 2010.

The improvements will bring the facilities in line with an expected increase in enrolments and provide a much better living environment for students to reach their full potential. Additionally construction of an \$850,000 multipurpose hall funded under the governments Building the Education Revolution should be completed by the end of 2010.

Karalundi is a boarding school located 55 km North of Meekatharra in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia and offers education from lower

primary to Year 12. Indigenous boarders are attracted to Karalundi because of its long history within the region.



It provides culturally relevant school curriculum, employs indigenous school and boarding staff, supports its teaching program with visits to communities and towns, and on special occasions, open up the campus for Indigenous communities to visit and engage in sporting and spiritual activities. Indigenous students usually come from Meekatharra, Wiluna, Newman, Jigalong, Port Hedland, Roeburne, South Hedland and Derby.



Josh Bell

By John Hill



In January 2010 our much loved Accelerated Literacy Consultant Josh Bell bid a fond farewell to the Support Unit to take up his new position as an AISWA National Partnerships Low SES Schools Consultant. There was much rejoicing in the Broome Support Unit Office as we figured we had finally heard the last of the wonders of Hamilton Victoria, how good the Demons are (one day) going to be, and the music of Garth Brooks, but no! Josh immediately re-installed himself as "Branch Manager" of the AISWA Broome Branch (with a staff of one...), located within the Support Unit Office.

The good news for schools is that, as the low SES Independent schools in the north of WA are all AIC Schools, everyone in those schools still has access to Josh's great range of expertise, experience, and infectious enthusiasm as he helps schools in areas such as Attendance, Community/School Partnerships, AEW training, and Principal Leadership to name but a few. AIC Schools are lucky to still have Josh around.

The bad news of course is that the we in the Support Unit office STILL have to put up with the above-mentioned obsessions, now added to by a great pride in the new furniture, especially "the credenza"!, and a constant monologue on the wonders of the white prado!

Wulungarra...



By Maggie McGuinness

Wulungarra Community School is going from strength to strength. Four new families have moved into the Kadjina and we enrolled 36 children at the beginning of 2010. This number has fluctuated of course because of cultural commitments that people have to fulfil, but our student numbers are higher than they have been for a long time.

School at Fitzroy Crossing



Last year (2009) we could not get back to Kadjina to start the school year because of the big wet season so we were forced to start in Fitzroy Crossing, holding the school at the library. This was a serendipitous event because a lot of children who don't otherwise go to school found us and followed us down to Kadjina. We decided to start the same way this year and held the first two weeks of school at Karrayili Adult Education centre. All of the Millijidee kids came to school straight away and lots of others joined in the fun and asked to come back with us. We will continue to do this next year in an effort to encourage all the kids in the area to come to school.

Eon Foundation Sustainable Garden Project

One of the most exciting new things at Wulungarra School

this year is the partnership with the Eon Foundation to build a sustainable vegetable garden in Kadjina Community.

This threeway partnership between Kadjina Community, Wulungarra School and Eon Foundation is an incredible opportunity to improve the health of all the school children with home-grown vegetables and fruit. The sustainable garden project is complemented by a nutrition project that is also part of the Eon Foundation's mandate. We will have the support of a horticulturist and a nutritionist for the next three years by which time we hope that the garden will be self-sustaining.

Language and Culture



Wulungarra School has a commitment to preserving and promoting Walmajarri language and culture. To do this we timetable daily language classes and bush trips each term where the children learn not only Walmajarri language but about traditional foods and medicines.

This year has seen changes to our methods. Instead of daily language classes at school we now have weekly bush trips with a group of adults from the community. These trips are to culturally significant places and also to parts of Millijidee Station that the children don't usually have a chance to visit. This term we will go to Likil on Quambun Station, Caroline Valley, Jocelyn Valley, Millijidee side of the river and some of the rock pools that are close to Kadjina. Some of these trips will take a full day and some only half a day. Sometimes we

will eat bush tucker and sometimes we will take flour and make damper. Everyone comes home exhausted but exhilarated after one of the full day trips.



Darwin Visit

A group of children and adults will visit Darwin in second term. We will fly from Broome and stay in dormitory accommodation and visit the zoo, water parks, crocodile parks, the movies, go ten-pin bowling and generally enjoy what cities offer.

'WULUNGARRA SCHOOL SKUDDA KOOL!'

Future Happenings

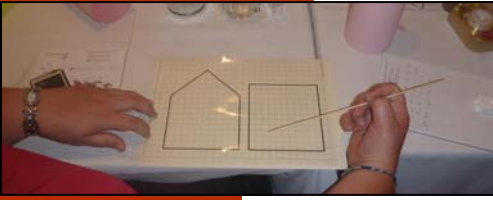
Kaboom Toons will be here in June for two days. They will teach us how to draw cartoon characters and to animate them.

Wangki Radio is setting up a radio station at Wulungarra School. We will broadcast one hour each week all across the Kimberley. The children will learn to operate the panel and present shows.

Jotham Krom who taught at Kulkarriya last year is coming in third term to spend a week showing us how to make movies.

Viv McDermott is a visual artist and will be here for two weeks in July working with the children to make paintings, linocuts and sculptures from found objects.





By Renae Small

So what is the AICS Numeracy Strategy all about?

Since the beginning of January, the AICS Numeracy Strategy has been in full swing. In addition to workshops, consultants have been visiting schools offering support in developing a deeper understanding of number, specifically in sharing learning activities and providing effective planning and assessment strategies. School visits have been invaluable in informing the development and writing of the AICS Numeracy Strategy resources.

One of our main focuses has been developing and implementing the ANTT (AICS Numeracy Tracking Tool). The tracking tool is unique to AICS and has two main functions – to inform classroom programming and AICS Numeracy Strategy resource development.

ANTT is an electronic spreadsheet that enables teachers to track the progress of their students effectively. ANTT has been designed so teachers can keep an up-to-date record of their students' progress throughout the year, thus making it relevant for classroom

Numeracy Strategy

planning. When used in conjunction with AICS developed diagnostic tasks and Scope and Sequence, and First Step in Maths Key Understandings, ANTT becomes a simple to use reference that can inform teachers' planning. It allows teachers to focus their planning directly on the needs and abilities of their students, both on an individual and whole group level.

The AICS Numeracy Team refers to ANTT data when developing resources for the schools. ANTT informs this work and makes the resources they produce more relevant to the needs of the schools.

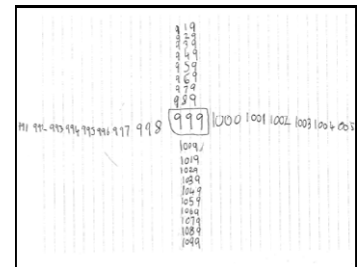
Importantly, ANTT will inform the work of the AICS Numeracy Strategy Reference Group, which includes school and community representatives, DEEWR AISWA and academic expertise.

With this in mind, it's important for teachers and schools to continue to update their ANTTs regularly and to email a copy this data to their AICS consultant at the end of each semester.

Although initially the Tracking Tools are set up by your AICS consultant, it is the respon-

sibility of each teacher to keep the data up-to-date, making changes when they observe individual student progress.

We have already seen progress in classrooms that we have visited. For example, one year six student who did not know the number sequence past 109 at the beginning of the year recently completed a task involving number sequences forwards and backwards by ones and tens from 999.



Forwards and backwards by one's and ten's from 999

The Numeracy Team, would like to thank teachers, principals and AEWs for all their hard work and dedication to improving the numeracy of their schools. It is not an easy task, however, ongoing use of the ANTT to guide our teaching and learning, and the continual support and feedback from you, will hopefully see a generation of children coming through school with a greater understanding and appreciation of numeracy.

New Principal — Dr Buschenhofen

By Romela Sanggalan

Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community welcomes its new principal Dr. Paul Buschenhofen, replacing the school's principal of three years, Anne Tonkin.

Sir Paul, as Karalundi students call him, holds a doctorate degree and has been working as Karalundi Deputy Principal since August 2009 to overlap with Anne and 'learn the ropes'. He has worked with indigenous children in a day school in the Northern Territory, plus a valuable number of years as principal in Thailand, as associate professor in Papua New Guinea and China and as lecturer at Edith Cowan University.

Paul is enthusiastic about his role and aims to impart not just good education but Christian values, which, he explained, means making a difference in the lives of kids and future generations.

"I want to convey to the communities...they want the best for the kids, Karalundi has achieved a very

high reputation, certainly up with the best in the country. Karalundi is teaching positive Christian values, this is a caring school. We will make sure that this reputation is maintained and even increased," he said.

'I want to convey to the communities... they want the best for the kids.'

Dr. Buschenhofen was officially introduced to members of the Karalundi Executive Committee at the close of the recent Karalundi Recognition Weekend. His endorsement to the students as the new school principal was made during the high school formal dinner when Mrs. Tonkin introduced him and referred to him as a great and caring principal.



Dr. Paul Buschenhofen (right) takes over from Anne Tonkin (left) as the new Karalundi principal beginning 2010.



The Big Event

By John Hill

The place to be in the Kimberley on June 5th 2010 was undoubtedly Frog Hollow Community in the East Kimberley.

Frog Hollow is of course the home of Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School, and it was there where Ben Johnston and Liz Holmes, Purnululu School teachers, chose to celebrate their nuptials.

This was a huge event, with lots of family and friends of Ben and Liz from Tasmania, as well as guests from Sydney, Alice Springs, Cairns, London, Warmun, Halls Creek, Yiyili, Yakanarra, Yungngora, Jarlmadangah, Derby and Broome.

It truly was a community event – Liz and Ben's students were in the bridal party, students from Warmun provided hors d'oeuvres, Purnululu School Principal Alex Hunter was MC, AICS Support Unit

Coordinator John Hill was the celebrant, and the Frog Hollow mob prepared the school grounds and provided the meat for dinner.

All the Frog Hollow kids looked fantastic, as did Mabel, Ben and Liz's beautiful daughter.

As the party kicked on under the magnificent starry sky of the Australian bush, guests danced the night away with music spun by DJ Scotty from Kununurra!

All those lucky enough to attend agree that Frog Hollow was the only place to be in the Kimberley on the Foundation Day long weekend of 2010!





Farewell to the Pinchas's

By Josh Bell

I'm sure by now everyone will be aware that Katie and Danny are returning to their home country, Victoria during term 3 of this year. Although it will be a very sad time for AICS, it will however be a very happy time for Katie and Danny as not only are they returning to their families but they are also expecting their first child in mid to late September. What a lucky kid, to have parents like Katie and Danny. Although it is sad to see them go, we are all very happy for them and excited about hearing the news of the baby's arrival.

The Support Unit and the AIC Schools have

been incredibly fortunate to have worked with Katie and Danny as they have always presented themselves in the most friendly, supportive and professional way. Their positive attitudes and impeccable organisation and work ethic are going to be a massive asset to their future work places. Katie and Danny leaving the Support Unit is like Chris Judd and Ben Cousins leaving the Eagles!! Life goes on but it's just not the same. Fortunately, the Broome office still has Cox, Kerr and Priddis to carry the team.

The Broome Community will also miss Katie and Danny as they have frequented the social

pages of the Broome Advertiser on countless occasions. We live in hope that the turquoise waters of Roebuck Bay, the endless sands of Cable Beach and the availability of blocks at Janaburru Six Seasons Estate will see the Pinchas's return as a family and stay for a long time. We live in hope that the return to Vic will see their child qualify for Big V status, if State of Origin footy makes a comeback, and that they will happily make Broome their home.

Katie and Danny, you are going to be missed more than you know and we all wish you the best of luck and thank you so much for your time with all of us.



Kulkarriya Update...

By Nicole Dwan

rubbish cleaning up near the shop.

Kulkarriya had another busy start of the year. Here is some of the things we got up to over the first few months.



Clean Up Noonkanbah Day – To coincide with Clean Up Australia Day, we held a Clean Up Noonkanbah Day. Here is Cheamay and Anastasia with their



Miss Kylie, our Pre-Primary teacher, left to go overseas so the pre-primary class had a trip to the river to say goodbye.



15 students received Principal's Awards for coming to school every day on time and were rewarded with a trip to the new Fitzroy Crossing pool and lunch at the Lodge as a reward.

Yakanarra UP descends on Perth

By Steph Cresswell

Yakanarra Community School was lucky enough to receive a grant from Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for the Upper Primary Class to travel to Perth on an excursion. Seven students were given the opportunity to attend as a reward for their attendance during the year and an extensive itinerary was planned to span the seven day trip.



Some of the highlights included watching the

Dockers play (unfortunately they were beaten) and

'Students have been using the excursion in class to learn across the curriculum...'

shopping at Target! They especially enjoyed Rottnest Island utilising bikes, snorkelling gear and the grassy footy oval. Swimming in the big waves at Scarborough was also a shock but definitely a highlight.

Going away together for seven days was a marvellous chance for everyone to form stronger relationships over the course of the trip. During our visit to Perth, we were

also given the opportunity to visit Garden Island and tour the Tribal class



destroyer, HMAS Arunta, named for the Eastern and Central Arrernte people of the Northern Territory. This was fascinating and a huge eye opener for both the students and the teachers.

Since coming home, the students have been using the excursion in class to learn across the curriculum creating artwork, recounts, displays, narratives and videos to play to the other students. At Yakanarra Community School, we feel extremely privileged to have been allocated this funding from FRRR and had a brilliant time away.

At Last ... A New Look!!

By Steph Snyman

After months of planning and hard work, the new website was launched in March.

Itomic did a great job in designing the logo and the layout of the website. They made it really easy to navigate through the site and I think

everybody will agree with me that this was a much needed change from the old site.

I would like to thank all the principals who responded quickly to my never ending requests for info and photos. However, there's still a bit of work to be done

on some school pages. Please have a look and send me the necessary updates.

Please keep sending new information, events for the calendar, vacancies and photos, so we can keep the website looking fresh and up to date.



The new AICS logo

AICS Conference — March 2010







Earl Cutter wins the Triathlon (high school division) during the No-Tobacco Day Celebrations

'WHO record says that most people start smoking before the age of 18.'

Karalundi Students Celebrate No-Tobacco Day

By Romela Sanggalan

In response to the Department of Health's appeal to prevent death and disease caused by tobacco, Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community celebrated the No-Tobacco Day on 19 March 2010.

Indigenous students and staff led the celebration dedicating half of the day to engage in sports, promoting and encouraging a smoke-

free culture among the Indigenous community.

Students participated in a triathlon, starting from the oval to the swimming pool and to the streets with their push bikes and a marathon back to the finish line at the oval.

With the winners declared, students and staff shared a barbecue under the shade at the oval.

This activity coincides with the World Health Organization's (WHO)

global appeal to prevent tobacco-smoking, a known cause of premature death and disease. WHO record says that most people start smoking before the age of 18, and almost a quarter of those before the age of 10. One in two smokers dies prematurely as a result of the habit.

Karalundi strictly implements in its vicinity a of total abstinence from tobacco and alcohol by staff and students.

Culunga

By Sue Mulholland

On 2nd June 2010 students from Culunga attended a ceremony at the State War Memorial in Kings Park commemorating Indigenous War Veterans.

The event was one of a number held around Australia to recognise the contribution of Aboriginal servicemen and women. The students learnt that although Aboriginal men and women have served in every war that Australia has fought since the Boer War, upon their return to Australia they were not afforded the same recognition and benefits as their non-Aboriginal counterparts. They also discovered that until the late 1940s Aboriginal volunteers were often rejected on the basis of race. Some men still volunteered, denying their culture if they had too.

After the ceremony students were able to have a close look at the floral wreaths and talk to some of the veterans, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The students were particularly interested in the Eternal Flame

that burns day and night at the memorial. One veteran took the time to explain to the students that the Flame is a symbol of honour and respect to all of Western Australia's servicemen and women.

At the end of Term 1 Culunga held a very successful Family Day.

The 'theme' for the day was Numeracy and teachers organised hands-on activities for parents and other family members to do with their children. Caty Morris from the "Make-It-Count" Project also took part, spending time with families explaining and playing games that enhance students' numeracy learning. "Make-it-Count" is an Australia wide initiative of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) and aims to foster strong partnerships between schools, their communities and numeracy educators. This was certainly achieved on Family Day!



Strelley—Books In Homes

(As published in the 'Royalties for Regions—Pilbara Cities Update, May 2010)

Strelley, a remote Aboriginal community in the Pilbara, boasts the oldest continually operations, independent Aboriginal community school in Australia, which commenced operation in 1976.

The 'Books in Homes' initiative supports families and the school to create a love of reading and a thirst for knowledge.

Up to 70 students at the school ranging from pre-primary to secondary selected new books for their library with funding provided through the Royalties for Regions Regional Grant Scheme.

The program helps improve children's grades, self esteem and confidence, and encourages their families to participate in their children's reading.



Numeracy in Fitzroy Crossing

By Danny Pinchas

After the literacy bandwagon rolled out of town it was time for teachers to get out their calculators and do the maths...

With DEEWR funding secured until the end of 2011, the AICS Numeracy Strategy had its Kimberley launch including the transformation of Bex from teacher to numeracy consultant. After a briefing session outlining the aims of the project, the new teachers began their First Steps in Mathematics course, looking at the importance of analysing

students' independent work, as well as participating in some maths activities themselves. The returning teachers worked with Bex, spending the time looking more deeply into using the First Steps Progress Maps and diagnostic tasks.

A visit to the historic Crossing Inn for many of the teachers was a nice way to unwind on Wednesday before getting back into all things maths on Thursday. The last day of the PD included the unpacking of AICS planning and assessment resources, with the newly developed AICS Numeracy Tracking Tool (ANTT) explained. We

spent time in phase



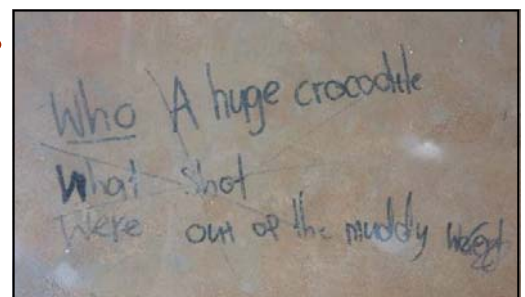
groups, sharing ideas and planning for the start of term before winding up the enjoyable week.

The Kimberley teachers got together again six weeks later, continuing the First Steps course, this time with Kaye joining Bex and Danny. The focus for these two days were on place value and decimals, with returning teachers contributing to a dice and card game resource, as well as looking at the importance of visualisation and catering to a range of learners in the maths classroom.

The writing is on the wall...

At Noonkanbah we're so committed to our AL, that we even graffiti in a text pattern.....

We found this in the bough shed near the shop.



January Perth PD

By *Brendan Franzone*

The Perth January PD was a packed program drawing on the expertise at AISWA particularly for the returning teachers who had already completed the Accelerated Literacy workshops.

Firstly, however Ruth began training the new teachers on Wednesday as the other consultants flew back from the Kimberley. Thanks to Herbert Howell and Lisa Fenton who assisted by leading tutorial sessions that afternoon when the groups broke into phases.

Whilst the new AICS teachers were being trained in AL PD on Thursday with Katie, Ruth, Alex, Josh and Brendan, the returning teachers went to the following sessions:

- Kylie Bice on 'Differentiating the Curriculum' for the returning JPs and

then MUPs and SECs.

- Pat Kershaw ran a series of sessions for JPs on 'Phonological Awareness'.
- Sophia Sabatier and Di Edwards ran a couple of sessions on 'Creating Texts' for MUPs and SECs.

Sophia also ran a session on 'Multi Lit' a one-to-one tutor program for adolescent non-readers.

The principals were involved in sessions with John Willet on 'Leadership Training' for the most part of Thursday and Friday and Kylie Byce also ran a session with them on 'Writing Funding Applications for Students with Disabilities'.

All teachers were involved in sessions with AL consultants on Friday including 'Planning' and 'Assessment' and a 'Forum'.

We'd like to once again thank the above con-

sultants for their contribution to making this PD practical and useful for teachers and principals.

Finally on a sadder note, it was the last PD that our self-proclaimed 'illustrious captain and golden boy of the team' Josh Bell fulfilled his duties in the capacity of an AL consultant. Josh has been a great asset to the team with his experience and knowledge as an AL teacher, AICS principal and his devious sense of humour. Josh has written a number of sets of teaching notes that have been used outside of AICS WA, as well as featuring on a NALP produced DVD. Josh also developed the student record booklet, which he again updated for this year's PD, as well as the new Assessment DVD to support teachers.

Thanks Josh for all you've contributed as an AL consultant.

'The Perth January PD was a packed program.'

What is in that Kimberley water???

From left: Katie Pinchas (AICS Support Unit Broome, Kate Lamacraft (Yiyili Aboriginal Community School) and Nicole Dwan (Kulkarriya Community School)



“Dare to Lead” National Indigenous Education Conference

By John Hill

On the 3rd of June 2010 Katie Pinchas and Alex Mountford, Accelerated Literacy Consultants from the Broome AICS Support Unit office gave a presentation entitled “Breaking down word barriers in a remote Kimberley school” at the Dare to Lead Conference on “Successful classrooms for Indigenous Students” in Brisbane.

The presentation focused on successes at Yiyili Aboriginal Community School in improving students’ outcomes in Standard Australian English. As Katie

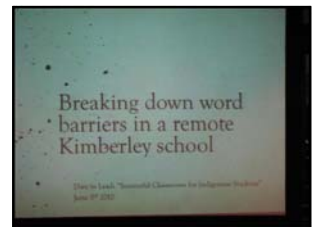
explained to the conference delegates, as they couldn’t go to Yiyili, the presentation would bring the community to the conference. Videos of community elders, parents, students, principal and teachers were thus an integral part of the presentation. The history of the community and school, community support, school and classroom strategies were all highlighted to demonstrate the mix of factors which are all contributing to improvements in students’ outcomes.

Katie and Alex’s presentation was universally acclaimed by the conference, with many excited dele-

gates keen to delve further into the various aspects of what was driving the successes demonstrated.

Katie, Alex, and the entire Yiyili Aboriginal Community School community are to be congratulated on the presentation and also all the great efforts going in that allow such presentations to take place.

Whilst in Brisbane, Broome Office Coordinator John Hill also took the opportunity to show Katie and Alex some of the delights of Australia’s most beautiful capital city....



Report from Wongutha CAPS

By Gaye Graham

2010 has well and truly arrived and we are in for another exciting year at Wongutha.

Term 1 and 2 has seen Wongutha CAPS have one of the largest enrolments yet with a record of 70 students enrolled in Term 1. There were 35 female students and 35 male students boarding in the school’s hostels.

The boys moved into their brand new state of the art hostel in Term 1 and the girls have finally moved into theirs in Term 2. It has been amazing to see a dream of the hostels become a reality. The Lord continues to provide for us here at Wongutha in so many ways.

The hostels have a well equipped gym, spacious rooms, games room, large entertainment system for movies and television, lounge areas, tea and coffee making facilities and much more. They truly are amazing buildings that the students can be really proud of.

Currently, the old boys’ hostel is being renovated to make way for new classroom and teachers’ offices. A part of this includes a hospitality area with attached function room. This facility will be used for training students in the hospitality and tourism area as they prepare food, host guests and cater for functions.

Also on the building front, a new multipurpose building

will commence shortly to replace the very old transportable large classroom. This will be used for classes, functions and church services on the weekends. It will be a lovely facility that looks out over the escarpment to wards the Esperance coastline.

Term 1 and 2 have been very busy with the students working hard in their learning areas and achieving some good results. At the end of Term 2 students will be travelling to Perth to participate in the Country Week event. We hope to take a boys and girls Basketball team to compete. The remainder of the school will be going on a Bushranger camp before heading home for the holidays.

‘Wongutha CAPS have one of the largest enrolments yet with a record of 70 students enrolled in Term 1’

January Fitzroy AL PD

By Katie Pinchas



The 2010 Fitzroy Crossing PD welcomed eleven new teachers to AIC Schools in the Kimberley and farewelled Accelerated Literacy consultant, Josh Bell.

New teachers were treated to Josh's final delivery of the Accelerated Literacy Professional Development which looked at an overview of the program, its success in our schools and the teaching sequence in practice. Tuesday's session looked at the Transformation stage of the teaching sequence.

Returning upper primary and secondary teachers began accredited training with Brendan Franzone and Sophia Sabatier in David Rose's successful 'Reading to Learn Program', which uses the scaffolding methodology to support students in other text types across the curricu-

lum. Returning junior and middle primary teachers enjoyed a medley of presentations including phonemic awareness by Pat Kershaw, using data to inform instruction in the classroom with Reading Recovery tutor Trish Bremner, and a practical session looking at literacy assessments by experienced teachers Kate Lamacraft and Alex Mountford.

All teachers worked together on Tuesday afternoon in preparation for term one teaching and received valuable AL teaching packs with book notes, demonstration lessons and classroom resources. Texts studied in term one this year included Margaret Wild's 'Puffling', Anna Fienberg's 'The Hottest Boy Who Ever Lived', 'Red Dog' by Louis DeBernieres as well as John Boyne's 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas.'

During Wednesday's session an assessment DVD was launched which demonstrated how to

complete all data requirements for Accelerated Literacy as well as additional assessment tools. Teachers were also given copies of the electronic Student Data Booklet which was successfully trialled and implemented in schools last year.

This year's conference also saw the inclusion of a 'Film Screening Sunday' on Monday night. This was a great way for new teachers to get a preview of community life and to celebrate school success. The charm of Fitzroy Lodge prevailed and provided a venue that was highly conducive to enthusiastic teacher participation by day and yarning and socialising by night!



'Teachers enjoyed a medley of presentations'

New Teacher at Culunga

By Sue Mulholland

Culunga Aboriginal Community School welcomes our new Early Childhood teacher Rebecca Tomarchio. "Miss Bek", as she is known to the children, is pictured here with

her Kindergarten to Year 3 class. Bek is a new graduate, and has experience working with Aboriginal children through practical placements in the Pilbara and other rural areas.



Our New AL Consultant

By Ruth Clothier

Luse Tamata joined us on the AICS team in March this year, as an Accelerated Literacy consultant. Luse is based in Perth and is the consultant for Culunga, Karalundi and Rawa.

She brings with her experience in various primary class levels, including multi-age classes, as well as a short time as an acting teaching principal.

She is thrilled to be involved in a project that

combines her interest in English literacy and Indigenous education, and as an added benefit, to be able to see more of Brendan's dancing, something she was able to witness when teaching at CAPS Kurrawang!



Steve v Shane

In December 2009, after 20 years at Wongutha CAPS teaching and working as Principal, Steve Florisson stepped down from his principal's position to hand over to Shane Meyer.

Steve Florisson worked tirelessly for Wongutha CAPS and the CAPS Board to further the vision the Board had of providing a first class education for Indigenous students. To this end he sought funds, helped to provide suitable buildings and recruited teachers so that Wongutha CAPS students would benefit. His vision included seeing students leave Wongutha and enter into meaningful employment. Steve also oversaw building

programs that would provide students with excellent hostel accommodation, a training centre for the VET program, a basketball stadium and kitchen and dining facilities that rival other boarding schools and office facilities and classrooms to allow a larger intake of students.

Steve's drive and vision has kept Wongutha CAPS in the forefront of Indigenous education and his encouragement of staff to further their own qualifications has resulted in teaching that helps students to achieve their best.

Shane Meyer has had a long association with Wongutha as a teacher and mentor of students. He

brings to the Principal's position a deep and broad experience with working with students from remote areas and relating to their needs and desire for a good VET education.

His abilities to relate to students and staff are invaluable. He is also keen for staff to continue their professional development and to gain further qualifications.

Shane's great sense of humour will be used to its fullest extent as he deals with the developing school programs and a greater intake of students.



Shane & Steve at the AICS conference

Diary Dates for 2nd Semester 2010

July:

- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants (Schools Systems, Amalgamations and Separations) (1)
- ATP—IE—Late Supplementary (Round 2) applications (1 July—6 Aug)
- **Term 2 finishes (3)**
- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants: Distance Education and Indigenous Supplementary Assistance—2nd payment (75%)
- AICS—ALEA Conference—Perth (4—7)
- **Term 3 commences (20)**
- ATP—Literacy, Numeracy & Languages—2011 applications (19 July—20 Aug)
- AICS SU—Staff Recruitment (30)

August:

- ONGE—State per Capita Funding—School Census (6)
- AISWA website update
- ONGE—State per capita funding—3rd payment due (13)
- DEEWR—School Census—Statutory Declarations due (13)

September:

- ATP—SNSLN—2nd payment to school dependent on receipt of payment from DEEWR (24)
- **Term 3 finishes (24)**

October:

- ONGE—State per Capita Funding—4th payment due (01)
- **Term 4 commences (12)**
- ROSLA— due date for participation grant final report (29)
- ATP—Literacy, Numeracy, IE & Languages—Due date for 2010 Program Year Final Accountability
- VET— Due date for 2010 Final Program Year (29)

November:

- ATP—LNSLN—Scheduled 3rd payment to schools (19)

December:

- ATP—IE—Per Capita payments to schools (10)
- **Term 4 finishes (16)**